

**ACTION UPDATE**  
**SAVING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION AND DEPLOYMENT**  
**OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS**



September 2011

**Touch**Foundation

**Touch**Foundation  
P.O. Box 1420, New York, N.Y. 10150



Touch Foundation brings vital healthcare services to people with the greatest unmet medical needs in Sub-Saharan Africa. We do so by training healthcare workers such as doctors, nurses, lab technicians and ensuring they treat the most underserved patients.



Watch our latest video at  
[www.youtube.com/user/touchfoundation](http://www.youtube.com/user/touchfoundation)

## ADDRESSING NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES- IT TAKES A WORKFORCE!

Healthcare workers such as doctors, nurses and pharmacists are the lifeblood of healthcare systems. Without a strong healthcare workforce these systems cannot provide basic primary care to tackle HIV/AIDS, malaria and maternal mortality, or specialist care necessary to manage the rising prevalence of non-communicable diseases. (e.g., cardiovascular, respiratory, diabetes and cancer)

Establishment of a strong healthcare workforce necessitates expansion of the healthcare worker training pipeline, as well as effective deployment and retention of trained healthcare workers.

To generate awareness of the global health workforce shortage, the World Health Organization and the Touch Foundation are partnering at the United Nations First Global Forum on Non-Communicable Diseases on September 19, 2011. Together with the governments of France, India, Japan, Oman and Uganda, we will advocate for public-private collaboration in health worker training expansion, as a prerequisite for stronger health systems to tackle non-communicable diseases.



"Touch Foundation's program . . . is a wonderful example of how [we] can work together to develop innovative health worker training solutions to save lives and improve the health of men, women and children in rural communities who often face a daily struggle to receive basic care from a skilled health worker."

– Dr. Mubashar Sheikh, **World Health Organization**

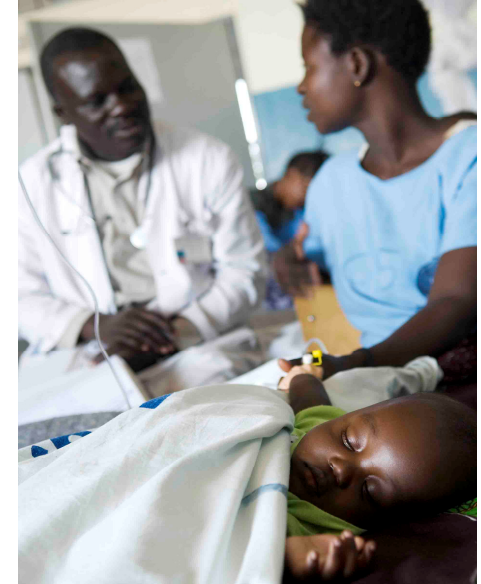


"We are enormously proud to support Touch. We believe that theirs is an example of how to train more healthcare workers."

– Dr. Maura O'Neill, **USAID**

## TREAT AND TRAIN HEALTH EDUCATION AND CARE NETWORK

Through our work at Bugando, at present the Touch Foundation is supporting the training of 1,100 healthcare workers across 12 cadres, including 590 physicians. Our future efforts will continue to focus on training new healthcare workers, but in addition we will focus on ensuring their successful deployment and retention to those areas where the greatest need exists.



We are excited to inform you that in the upcoming year we will be launching a new program, *Treat and Train*, which will be funded by USAID, provided we secure the matching funds.

This innovative program will rotate teams of specialists through regional and district hospitals, who will simultaneously treat patients and provide clinical training to students. Access to highly skilled healthcare professionals in some of the most underserved communities will save and improve the lives of thousands. In particular, we believe that we will significantly reduce maternal and child mortality, often considered key barometer for the effectiveness of a healthcare system.

The launch of this program will mark the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the Touch Foundation. We look forward to sharing with you news of our progress in the upcoming months.